

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX CANJA OF
FLINT, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and great American.

In a rich life span of 81 years, Alex Canja mentored thousands of young men and women and then, in later life, became an advocate for older citizens.

On his own, without parents, from the age of 11, Alex raised himself, living at the YMCA in Flint, MI and selling newspapers.

Ever the optimist, determined to succeed, he believed that with hard work and honest effort, his dreams could come true. And they did.

At Flint Central High School, he was elected president of the student body. He served in the US Army Air Force returning to the University of Michigan after the war. He became an All-American diver, was captain of the U of M swimming team, and earned a Master's Degree in Education. It was there that he met and courted Esther Giovannone, also known as "Tess." She became his wife and inseparable companion for 56 years.

He served his community. A teacher, deputy superintendent, and camp director, Alex coached swimming, taught English, and with his wife Tess, built the fledgling summer camp "Camp Flying Eagle" into one of the finest in Michigan. His goal was to provide young boys and men the many opportunities for personal growth and success he knew they needed.

Alex worked for many years with AARP on behalf of the senior citizens of the United States. He served alongside his wife, Tess Canja, who became the National president of AARP. He brought his wit and wisdom to meetings of the spouses and companions of AARP board members, melding them into a support group for themselves and the Board.

He was very proud of Tess and her accomplishments, but also of his daughter, Debbie, son, Jeff, and grandsons, Brian and Scott. Another son, Paul, preceded him in death.

For Tess and Alex Canja, their immortality will be in their contribution to their community, their state, and their nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF WILLIAM K. DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute the life of William K. Davenport. Although Bill passed away in 1999, his personal accomplishments and contributions to the community of Lima, Ohio, are still celebrated today.

Bill became the Chief of the Lima Police Department on May 1, 1968, making him the first African-American in Lima's history to acquire this rank. He earned this commission solely by his own merit, obtaining the highest score on the civil service competition examination. Prior to his appointment as chief, Bill compiled a

commendable record as a law enforcement officer. He served 8 years as patrolman, 5 years as detective, 4 years as sergeant, 7 years as lieutenant and 2 years as inspector of the uniform division before becoming chief.

Bill was known and respected by his colleagues as an amiable and admired leader. A humble man, he faced the brewing racial tension of the Sixties without compromising his principles, even at one point in his career disagreeing with the Mayor of Lima.

Bill is remembered as an exemplary citizen who frequently went above and beyond his official duties to help others. The community of Lima has truly been affected by the noble life Bill led and the excellent public service he gave to the city.

Mr. Speaker, William K. Davenport was a dignified law enforcement officer who earned a wide array of accolades during his 36 year career, including serving as the first African-American Chief of Police in Lima, Ohio. Because of his diligent service to his community, he is worthy of receiving our recognition. I know my colleagues join me in honoring this truly exceptional man.

RECOGNITION OF ALFRED
"MUGSY" BEAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Alfred "Mugsy" Bean of Jefferson County, Illinois. Mugsy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Mugsy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. On the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mugsy immediately volunteered for service to his country. He was embroiled in World War II for close to 4 years. For the past 25 years Mugsy has served as a member of American Legion Post 141 Funeral Detail and has worked on the Jefferson County Veteran's Memorial Committee. He is known to treat all with the same respect and to reach out to those in need. Mugsy has been married to Louise for 58 years and has raised four children.

I want to congratulate and thank Mugsy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

MAYOR FOR THE DAY IN
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young individual from my district who recently won the honor of "Mayor for the Day" of Elmhurst, Illinois. Miss Carly Hamilton, who is in Sixth Grade at Visitation Catholic School, won this honor by composing the following essay in 50 words or less:

"I love Elmhurst, the greatest city in the greatest country in the world because . . .

Many people might think it's small, but to tell you the truth, it's not at all. Elmhurst has movies and ice cream and chocolates and books, from haircutters to house sellers, from schools to parks. So for me, Elmhurst is the place to be!"

HONORING ALFONZO TORRES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Alfonso Torres Martinez for his many years of dedicated service to Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Dallas, Texas, and also to congratulate him for completing over fifty years of service with the company and its predecessors.

Following two and a half years in the Army, including a year in the Philippines, Al Martinez began his career at then-Chance Vought Aircraft as a Wiring Serviceman Helper at a starting wage of \$1.34 an hour. Through the years, Al has left his mark on numerous missile programs and continues to lend his resilience and determination to MFC programs at the age of 82.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration of fifty plus years of service is a remarkable feat, and I know that the other members of this body will join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Al Martinez on his incredible accomplishment.

RECOGNITION OF CHESTER
CONNAWAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Chester Connaway of Jefferson County, Illinois. Chet was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Chet received this honor for his lifelong service to others. Upon his graduation from Mt. Vernon Township High School he joined the Army. He then served 40 years in the Illinois Army National Guard. He now is the district director for Veterans Affairs Southern Division where he works to secure benefits for deserving veterans. Chet also is a member of the Field Grade School Board of Education and he served twenty years as treasurer of Wesley United Methodist Church. Chet and his wife Barbara have been married 50 years and have raised three daughters.

I want to congratulate and thank Chet for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I missed several votes on June